

Letters

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Sympathy for travellers is diminished by pay demand

I DID have some sympathy for the Dale Farm travellers, but now they seem to want paying to leave, it makes me wonder if that is what it's all about.

I had friends in Havering who were moved off their green belt land after 17 years of farming it. They didn't get any pay-outs.

Having lost their cattle to foot and mouth, with no livestock they were not allowed to live on the land and the council moved them off. They still own the land, but can't do much with it.

I can't believe how vast the Dale Farm site has become. How did the council let it expand so much without sorting out the problem years ago?

R LAWSON
Grove Road
Stanford-le-Hope

...WHAT gets me about the Dale Farm travellers situation is the cruelty, the appalling animosity of

Reader picture

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■ Prittlewell Square Park, Southend – taken by Hannah Ali

Welcome to a concrete mess

ONCE again Southend Council has shown its ineptitude at making decisions that are best for the whole community – most noticeably with the area around Southend Victoria, the former B&Q site and the Victoria Shopping Centre.

It is creating a concrete jungle unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists alike. It is certainly time for a change.

ROBERT BROWN
Northumberland Avenue
Southend

Conscripts are fine citizens

RALPH Walker says National Service training does not mould character, (Sept 2), but he is wrong.

I have seen many a troublemaker licked into shape during National Service and they have turned out to

POINTS

I RECEIVED excellent treatment when I was admitted to Basildon Hospital recently. From the moment I arrived to my final discharge, I received excellent treatment and attention. My experience, though painful, was made so much better by the care I received from all the nursing staff, and orderlies. I have nothing but praise for all of them.

YVONNE STEWARD
Sandpit Lane, Brentwood

TIM Healey is correct about the cross-Thames air ferry (September 6). I remember as a child in the mid-Thirties, watching the plane crossing the river. It flew from Rochford to Rochester and back, just like clockwork. What a pity it cannot be re-introduced. The present journey is a nightmare, whether by road or rail.

DAVID KEDDIE
Hall Road, Rochford

AT last, a brilliant idea for the pier. Of course, some of Southend Council will be against it, it always is when it's a good idea and it did not think of it. A paddlesteamer at the end of our pier for